

25. The patch formulation for external use according to claim 4, characterized in that the organic acid salt is sodium acetate.

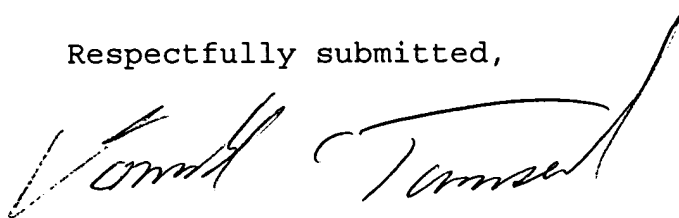
26. The patch formulation for external use according to claim 5, characterized in that the organic acid salt is sodium acetate.

REMARKS

The amendments to Claims 1-20, and the addition of new claims 21-26, are made to eliminate the multiple dependencies and to place the claims in proper U.S. format. The effect of the foregoing amendments relate only to matters of form, and the substance of the claims remain the same. The present amendment is deemed not to add new matter. Claims 1-26 are in the application.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP VERSIONS OF AMENDED CLAIMS 1-20:

1. (Amended) A patch formulation for external use, [characterized by] comprising a basic drug, an organic acid and an organic acid salt as essential components.

2. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the basic drug is an acid addition salt thereof.

3. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the organic acid is a carboxylic acid having carbon atoms of 2 to 7.

4. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 1 [or 3], [characterized in that] wherein the organic acid is at least one acid selected from the group consisting of acetic, lactic, tartaric, citric, malic, benzoic and salicylic acids.

5. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the organic acid salt is a metal salt of a carboxylic acid.

6. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 1 [or 5], [characterized in that] wherein the organic acid salt is sodium acetate.

7. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 1, [characterized by] comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of the basic drug, 0.01 to 20% by weight of the organic acid and 0.01 to 20% by weight of the organic acid salt, based on the total weight of the composition of the adhesive layer.

8. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the ratio of the acid addition salt of the basic drug to the organic acid salt, ranges from 5:1 to 1:5 (by equivalent ratio).

9. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the ratio of the acid addition salt of the basic drug to the organic acid, ranges from 5:1 to 1:5 (by equivalent ratio).

10. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the ratio of the organic acid to the organic acid salt, ranges from 3:1 to 1:20 (by equivalent ratio).

11. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the acid addition salt of the basic drug is at least one agent selected from the group consisting of hypnotics/sedatives, antipyretic anti-inflammatory analgesics, antimigraine agents, stimulants/antihypnotics, anti-psychoneurotics, local anesthetics, agents for urinary organs, skeletal muscle relaxants, agents for autonomous nerves, anti-Parkinsonian agents, antihistamines, bronchodilators, cardiotonics, coronary vasodilators, peripheral vasodilators, agents for circulatory organs, antiarrhythmics, antiallergics, antidizzying agents, anti-serotonin-receptor antiemetics and narcotic analgesics.

12. (Amended) A patch formulation for external use, [characterized in that] wherein said patch formulation is obtained with a basic drug, an organic acid and an organic acid salt as essential components.

13. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein the basic drug is an acid addition salt thereof.

14. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein the organic acid is a carboxylic acid having carbon atoms of 2 to 7.

15. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein the organic acid salt is a metal salt of a carboxylic acid.

16. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein the patch formulation is obtained by using 0.1 to 20% by weight of the basic drug, 0.01 to 20% by weight of the organic acid and 0.01 to 20% by weight of the organic acid salt, based on the total weight of the composition of the adhesive layer.

17. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 13, [characterized in that] wherein said patch formulation is obtained with the ratio of the acid addition salt of the basic drug to the organic acid salt, ranging from 5:1 to 1:5 (by equivalent ratio).

18. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 13, [characterized in that] wherein said patch formulation is obtained with the ratio of the acid addition salt of the basic drug to the organic acid, ranging from 5:1 to 1:5 (by equivalent ratio).

19. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein said patch formulation is obtained with the ratio of the organic acid to the organic acid salt, ranging from 3:1 to 1:20 (by equivalent ratio).

20. (Amended) The patch formulation for external use according to claim 13, [characterized in that] wherein the acid addition salt of the basic drug is at least one agent selected from the group consisting of hypnotics/sedatives, antipyretic anti-inflammatory analgesics, antimigraine agents, stimulants/antihypnotics, anti-psychoneurotics, local anesthetics, agents for urinary organs, skeletal muscle relaxants, agents for autonomous nerves, anti-Parkinsonian agents, antihistamines, bronchodilators, cardiotonics, coronary vasodilators, peripheral vasodilators, agents for circulatory organs, antiarrhythmics, antiallergics, antidizzying agents, anti-serotonin-receptor antiemetics and narcotic analgesics.